

Selected Poetry.

A BABY INTERVIEWED.

TO A LITTLE ONE JUST A WEEK OLD.

Only a baby, 'bout any hair,
'Cept just a little fuzz here and there.
Only a baby, name you have none;
Barefooted and dimpled, sweet little one.

Only a baby, teeth some at all;
What are you good for, only to squall?
Only a baby, just a week old;
What are you here for, only to scold?

BABY'S REPLY.

Only a baby! What should I be?
Lots o' big folks have been little like me.
'Ain't dot any hair! 'as I have too;
'Specially I haven't, does it look grow?

Not any teeth—wouldn't have one;
Don't dot my dinner by gnawing a bone.
What am I here for? 'at pretty mean;
Who's dot a better right, 'ever you been?

What am I dood for, did you say?
Eber so many good things, every day.
'Tourse I squall sometimes, sometimes I bawl,
They dassant spank me, 'cause I'm so small.

Only a baby, 'es, sir, 'at's so;
'N if you only could, you'd be one too.
'At's all I have to say; you're 'most too old,
Bess I dot into bed, does dotting cold.

Christian Union.

SPRING FASHIONS.

Aside from the straw bonnets that always appear with April and May, there are quantities of straw trimmings to be used in many instances in lieu of ribbons and laces. The newest features among these are mixtures of straw and jet in ornaments and leaves to be placed in flower clusters. There are also straw laces, curled straw braids, cords and tassels of straw, thick ruffles, buttons, anchors, garniture of various designs made of very white and pale buff straw.

Spring bonnets are larger than those of the winter. The crown is well defined, square, and high enough to hold a towering coiffure. Flat and rolled brims are both imported; it is probable that flat brims will be fashionable, as rolled coronets have been worn for several seasons. There are also many half-and-half brims that have rolled fronts and recede in the back. The Rabagas of straw is again imported; Parisian ladies of any age from years down now wear that jaunty sailor bonnet perched far back on the head. Most of the new shapes may be used either as a round hat or bonnet; a pair of strings tied under the chin, are all that is necessary for the change.

Leaves and flowers of straw in clusters, with long fern leaves of finely cut jet, are the newest ornaments for spring bonnets. These straw and jet leaves also appear with flowers of natural colors. The Watteau cluster has a large pink rose, blue forget-me-not, slender jet leaves, and straw ferns. Another new feature is oxidized leaves, giving a silvery, metallic appearance to all foliage. This is a "reform against nature" that will scarcely be as popular as the beautiful autumn leaves and the highly colored tropical foliage that are now so admirably represented in the artificial flowers.

The first suits imported for spring are moss green, vert-de-gris, ecru and violet shades, and the fabrics are poplins, pongees and soft woollen stuffs. They consist of a postilion basque, with revers behind instead of pleats, and large Dolman sleeves. The upper skirts have very short aprons, or else are plain breadths attached to the back breadths of the lower skirts, and rounded off to the belt in front, displaying the elaborately trimmed front breadths of the lower skirt. The latter arrangement has the effect of a polonaise, and similar suits are made with real polonaises. Two shades appear in these costumes and the novelty is to use a very light and very dark shade, instead of tints that differ slightly, as was formerly the fashion.

The soft-finished percales noted at the wholesale houses are now displayed in retail stores, and are readily sold even at this early season. The first choice is the Napoleon blue percale, with white polka dots, marked 35 cents a yard. This is as soft as flannel, and is often mistaken for it. It is precisely the same on both sides, and ladies who bought it in Paris last year say it washes well. Foulard-percales of solid gray, ecru, or brown grounds have bright borders in Cashmere colors and designs. These are to be used as flounces on the skirt and polonaises.

A dress of sea-green moiré had an overskirt of green crepe. The trained skirt was trimmed with green velvet bands edged upon either side with white lace. The overskirt was bordered with green fringe and looped with a broad sash of green velvet. The ends of the sash were most elaborately embroidered. The low bodice was pointed both back and front, and had a fichu of crepe which was bordered with fringe, with white lace in the neck. Marie Antoinette sleeves with lace undersleeves fastened with bows of crepe. Garniture of pink roses.

A very rich and stylish spring suit was made of apple green poul de soie, trimmed with a paler shade of green. This had an overskirt and basque. The bottom of the skirt had a deep flounce, which was shaded in alternate clusters—plaits of the two shades of silk, four folds of the lighter and eight of the darker. The flounce formed its own heading. Upon each cluster of the lighter shade was placed a bow made of the darker shade, with a light lining. The overskirt, which was quite long in the back, with a short apron front, was trimmed with a narrower flounce to correspond. The corsage had jaunty little postilion basque, which were bound with the light shade of silk, and bordered with green fringe. Demi wide sleeves with a deep plaiting falling back from the wrist and fastened with silk bows. Rabagas hat of green velvet, with long plume of pale green, and pink rose in the diadem.

A Wisconsin Justice of the Peace divorced a couple recently as follows: He stood them in the middle of the floor, backs together, and as they walked away from each other he repeated the marriage ceremony backwards.

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